The year 1888 promises to be a year of splendid political developments, one and all redounding to the glory and triumph of a

1888.

# UNITED DEMOCRACY.

THE SUN.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1888.

The Course of Political Evolution. That natural and logical evolution of polities, which tends to preclude both the nomination of Mr. BLAINE by the Republicans and the nomination of Mr. CLEVELAND by the Democrats, would seem to have been moving rapidly forward of late toward the consummation of its perfect work. And a most suggestive feature of the process is the ous and solemn asseveration of the shouters of both sorts that their respective champions are more sure of the thing, and more irresistible and inevitable than any champions ever were before since politics

Between the two gentlemen, the Republican BLAINE and the Democrat CLEVELAND, there is a striking opposition of character and personality; and the queer point of it is that this very personality and this very character in each are contributing toward the simultaneous retirement of both from that high position which now for several years they have occupied. Thus contrary causes sometimes produce identical results.

As for Mr. BLAINE, he may be said to possess at this moment more warm, ardent, enthusiastic, and faithful personal friends than any other man in the United States. If, for instance, he should to-morrow morning, without any previous announcement, come out of the Tribune office after a friendly visit to his able and powerful supporter, Mr. WHITELAW REID, and should start out to walk up Broadway, he would not get to the corner of Chambers street before he would be surrounded by a great crowd of people. Such is the attraction that his genial temperament and his brilliant talents exercise over masses of men, as well as over those who know him

To all this Mr. CLEVELAND offers the most signal contrast. With all the good things he has done in his public capacity, and with the strong approval that he has often received from disinterested observers, as well as from the officeholders, it is not too much to say that there is no other prominent citizen of the United States who has so few cordial and devoted personal friends as he. In fact, it would be difficult to believe that there is a single man who is bound to him by that warm sympathy and that uncritical and unreserved attachment such as constantly surround his great Republican rival with a sphere of enthusiastic affection.

And now the probability is steadily growing stronger that the Democratic party will find another candidate than Mr. CLEVELAND. and that the Republican party will confide its fortunes to the charge of some other leader than BLAINE; and the fundamental reason for such a change of front is that they have both been monopolizing public attention for the last four years as the only possible candidates of their respective parties; and thus their weak points and the uncertainty which must attend their nomination, have incessantly been forced upon the attention of all those politicians. Democratic and Republican, whose cool judgment will at last control the decision of the nominating conventions. Such a monopoly is in itself always perilous to candidates; and when they are so evenly matched as these two, with their respective points of danger so sensitive and alarming, all prudent statesmen and politiclans are liable to be gradually averted from them. Moreover, when, as in BLAINE's case, the friends are so excessively enthusiastic : and when as in CLEVELAND's, the enemies are at once coldly indifferent like the American Democrats, or flercely averse like the Irish Democrats, there is nothing to surprise us in their final failure. While he is fattered and glorified on all hands, the candidate is peacefully eliminated, and another leader has to be found and promoted to the vacated place at the head of the party.

In regard to Mr. BLAINE, the fact that he was beaten in 1884 tells strongly against him; and so does the recollection that the old Whig party was finally ruined in 1844 by bestowing its nomination on HENRY CLAY, after he had fought through a long series of campaigns as the most brilliant and popular statesman of his day. The lesson of this memorable chapter of political experience remains fresh and impressive after the lapse of more than forty years; and the sensible adherents of the Plumed Knight seem to be taking it more and more to heart. We dare say, too, that Mr. BLAINE, who has never been presumptuous about himself, and never selfish in desiring to appropriate all the honors of his party. is likewise taking it to heart. He hesitates, and the extraordinary personal friendship which is cherished for the man, also hesitates to run gratuitously for him and his party the risk of a second defeat.

A possible result, as the case now stands, is the nomination by the Republicans General PHILIP HENRY SHERIDAN. and a very strong candidate he would unquestionably prove, notwithstanding certain points of weakness which it is not necessary to

develop at the present stage of the question. With the retirement of BLAINE and the nomination of SHERIDAN, the whole arena would be changed, not only for the Republicans but for the Democrats as well. The confidence in Mr. CLEVELAND's star of destiny, which has been so strongly expressed in many quarters as against BLAINE, would be equally aggressive as against SHERIDAN, or any other untried opponent: and at the same time the various causes of Democratic discontent which have accumulated around CLEVELAND in almost every part of the country, would become more

active and more imperious. If the Republicans nominate SHERIDAN,

what popular leader would be selected to head the armies of the Democracy? That is a question which nobody need hurry to There are many Democrate whe would fill the bill.

They Won't Boss this Year's Job. The Mugwumps are having a good deal of conversation, after their wont, about the candidates whom the Democratic and the Republican Conventions must or must not put up. For the Mugwumps, although not themselves represented in the Convention of either party, are resolved to dictate the nominations to be made by both parties.

In fact, considering the elastic and expansive quality of the cheek of the Mugwumps, it is singular that they don't insist that no party shall nominate a candidate not recommended and approved by them. There is just as much reason why they should expect the Prohibitionists to cater to the supposed Mugwump vote as to expect the Democrats and the Republicans to do so But this is not their year. The fight of 888 is between the Republican party and the United Democracy.

Morning Prayers at Harvard.

A circular subscribed "Some Rowing Men" has been sent to such undergraduates of Harvard College as have rooms in the dormitories in the college yard, calling their attention to the fact that the average attendance at morning prayers in the chapel "is slipping down from 100 to a smaller one," and urging a larger and more regular attendance. It will be remembered that Harvard, after much deliberation, adopted the system of voluntary morning prayers a few years ago. Formerly the whole body of undergraduates not ready with a plausible excuse, such as the certificate of a kind-hearted physician that exposure to the morning air was very dangerous to certain youthful throats, had to go to prayers; and great were the profanity and implety caused thereby. Under the new system, which also embraces sermons and residence at the college for short periods by various distinguished divines, the attendance at chapel has dropped from eight or nine hundred to one hundred and fifty or less.

Yet nothing has happened for the one side to complain of, or the other side to chuckle knowingly over. The friends of the voluntary system certainly should not wish any undergraduate to go to prayers unless he wants to go. Whether there are ten or ten hundred students at morning chapel doesn't affect the merits of the voluntary system. The main thing is that nobody should be made to go against his will. As a matter of fact, moreover, to go to morning prayers in the horrible Cambridge climate between November and April is an exertion that requires a pretty robust sort of plety. The comfortable old gentlemen who read prayers in their houses after a good breakfast would perhaps be a little less ardent if they had to tramp through the muddy abysses of a college yard to a chapel which is not very warm except with devotion.

Apparently some of the friends of the volintary system are disappointed because of the falling off of the attendance at the Appleton Chapel. They want more undergrad-uates to go, lest the opponents of the system should call it a failure. But the voluntary system would still be desirable if not an unlergraduate went to chapel. It might be regrettable that Harvard should not have more students of a religious bent, but it would not be so regrettable as to huddle a crowd of unwilling hearers to chapel, and perhaps fill them with a permanent disgust for church services and ceremonies of all kinds.

Besides, no other system than the voluntary one could be logical and consistent at the Cambridge college after the broadening changes to which it has been subjected under President ELIOT'S administration, though Mr. ELIOT is by no means always consistent or liberal.

### Where to Begin Divorce Reform.

Just before its adjournment, the last Cons appropriated \$10,000 " for the collection of statistics of and relating to marriage and divorce" throughout the Union, and committed the work to the Commissioner of Labor, who has been engaged upon it since

Such statistics, if they could be made complete, would probably be valuable, and might be included in the information of the census, along with the statistics of births and deaths. But it seems that the appropriation was made at the instance of the National Divorce Reform League, a voluntary association, with its headquarters in Boston. which for several years had been trying to induce Congress to provide for the inquiry. We suppose, therefore, that the underlying purpose in securing these statistics at the public expense is to bring about the passage of a law by Congress for the regulation of divorces in the whole Union, and that is a project to which Congress can neither constitutionally nor reasonably show any favor or lend any assistance.

The regulation of marriages and divorces s a matter which the Constitution leaves within the discretion of the States and Congress has nothing to do with it. But even if Congress could properly interfere, what justification is there for supposing that it would carry out the views of these Boston divorce reformers, who think that the divorce laws of the States make the dissolution of marriages too easy? If the States allow free divorce, we must conclude that they do so in response to public sentiment; and would not Congressmen be as likely as State legislators to act in accordance with that sentiment? With the exception of two or three States, the public demand, as expressed in legislation, is for easy or comparatively easy livorce, and therefore a uniform divorce law for the whole Union, passed by Congress, would naturally be such a law as this

eague is expressly organized to condemn. The league is much better employed wher it uses its influence to bring about the modification of the State laws. The officers, who are mostly clergymen, can also impress upon their immediate followers the duty of paying heed to the Scriptural law of divorce, as they interpret it, without regard to any statutes made by men in contravention of what they egard as divine authority. The Roman Catholics, so far as they are concerned, have no concern about divorce legislation, whether it is free or strict, for they hold that a marriage is indissoluble, except by death, whatever the law of the State. They accordingly make it a matter of conscience to ignore the egal right to a divorce; and so, also, these elergymen should teach their people and require their communicants to accept no livorce on other than Scriptural grounds.

In this country, where there is no State Church, the theory of the law is that marriage is a contract, and that the causes for which it may be broken are determinable by egislation. If the theory of any Church is nconsistent with this, all it has to do is to enforce on its members obedience to its law rather than the law of the State. But, practically, as the divorce statistics show, church members are just as ready as other people to take advantage of facilities of divorce which

the clergymen of this league declare to be al, and, therefore, evil. The first step toward the divorce reform they are working for should therefore be

taken in their own churches. Ten Days with the Alethometer. The six days' pedestrian match has, to sertain extent, diverted public attention from the sublimer contest in the Second ward. People who have not followed the

variations of the alethometer very closely will be glad to have an exact and impartial statement of the week's results. First, "LARRY" GODKIN has gone to work in earnest to overcome his daimonfor in his case it is a real classical daimon, and no mere vulgar divvle of unverscity.

He is manfully trying to be truthful. "LARRY'S" better self is of course at a disadvantage, as always happens in moral contests of this kind, when the Mr. Hype of a man's nature has too long been allowed to domineer over the Dr. JEKYLL. Such is the inevitable penalty of the years of apathetic indifference which "LARBY" lived up to that red-letter Friday, ten days age to-day, when he awoke to the peril of the situation,

and resolved to try to be veracious. The alethometer now stands at 16. While this represents a net gain of not more than three or four points for the first ten days of the conflict, it really signifies fifteen or twenty points of desperate fighting. The alethometer has bobbed forward and back like a weaver's shuttle, now marking a slight gain

for "LARRY," and now a setback. The ground between 12 and 16, and particularly t and about 14, has been hotly contested We regard it as a highly encouraging fact that the Godkin alethometer shows, upon the whole, an upward tendency. "LARRY' s creeping along, but one must creep before he can walk or run.

Another most encouraging sign is the spirit of humility with which "LARRY" reeives the sneers and jeers of thoughtless spectators. To these of our esteemed contemporaries who see nothing but a humorous situation in "LARBY's" desperate struggle, we beg leave to appeal in his behalf. It is much easier to ridicule than to extend sympathy and assistance, but it is so much obler to do the latter thing!

We are confident that every generous newspaper-and in this class we do not include the New York Times-will quit laughing at "LARBY" as soon as it is generally inderstood how deeply his heart is engaged in the present enterprise. Meanwhile, he is attending strictly to the business in hand. He does not retort. He does not turn angrily upon his persecutors. The old-time spirit of jaunty procacity is gone. He no longer strikes back. He is no longer arrogant or supercilious in his attitude toward those whom he dislikes. You may search the columns of the Evening Post for the past week without finding a single reference to any Republican or Democratic statesman as BILL," or "MIKE," or "BARNEY."

That is a great guin for the first ten days.

### Perfectly Harmless.

The first organized attempt of the Mugwump press to throw mud upon Governor HILL, in the supposed interest of President

CLEVELAND, is as unsuccessful as it is feeble. We print elsewhere Governor HILL's dignified and sufficient reply to a charge that he has allowed money to be taken from the wrong appropriation and expended in beautifying the new Executive Mansion at Albany. for the benefit of his successors in the office of Governor of the State of New York.

That is what the charge would amount to at its worst, provided it were true; but, as Governor HILL shows, it is not true.

The animus of the attack was fully disclosed by the New York Times yesterday when it declared that "this operation certainly showed a lack of those strict ideas of official integrity which our people so much admired in Mr. HILL's predecessor."

For these silly attacks on Governor HILL by the Mugwump newspapers the President must not be held responsible; nor must they be allowed to engender bad feeling between Democrats. It is not possible that such slanders are approved either by President CLEVELAND'S personal sense of fairness, or by his political judgment.

The House Committee on Civil Service Beform has acted very wisely in recommending that the bill to establish a retired list for persons employed in the civil service be not passed. Such a measure would be abominably un-American. It is true that of late years certain special legislation for individuals has list: but this also is contrary to the principles of our Government, and there should be no more of it. The military and naval retired lists are kept constantly as full as the law will allow, and there are continual efforts to transfer to them officers in the full vigor of usefulness and ripe experience, for no purpose in the world except to give higher rank and more pay to their juniors on the ac tive list. In a civil service retired list, this sort of contriving would be exaggerated; and even the establishment of retirement for age and length of service alone would probably be followed by additional grounds for retirement and by perpetual special legislation. Besides, the principle itself is wrong in a Government of

What subtle front of fate requires that JOHN SHERMAN, the friend of the late ELIZA PINESTON. should always be called upon at Re publican banquets to respond to this toast, of

all others. "A Free Ballot and a Fair Count"? With Shrove Tuesday, to-morrow, the eason of public balls and private festivities that has held sway since Christmas comes to climax. Each year appears to add to the number of the great annual balls and to increase their lavishness of outlay. Each year, too, there is much discoursing over the extrav-But the net earnings of a good part of them are for charity, and all help furnish a livelihood for thousands of people. These are harvest days for dressmakers, hairdressers, costumers. confectioners, and others, and a lively or a dull season makes a vast difference to them. As Ash Wednesday approaches, some of the levotees of gayety, who have kept up bravely in he giddy round of fashionable dissipati will not be sorry for the relief afforded by the

## Nothing was lacking to make the second din-ner of the Republican Club a gratifying success.—New York Tribune.

Yes, one thing—the presence of R. B. HAYES He was invited, but couldn't come. He sent a letter of regrets which, as read at the dinner table, was slightly different from the form in which it was undoubtedly written and sent: "Regret I cannot be with you and renew acqu EVARIA SHERMAN, and the rest. But we are all

The gloomy silence with which Mr. HAYER's nessage was received shows how deeply his

One of the noblest and most appropriate of the many jubilee presents made to Pope LEO has come from the province of Minas-Geraes, in Brazil. There, on the initiative of the Bishop. a committee has procured the emancipation of two hundred and forty slaves, and has ancounced to the Holy See that this has been one in commemoration of the jubilee. Minas-Geraes is one of the great coffee provinces, and in this and in Rio Janeiro, Bahia, and San Paulo more than half of the slaves of the empire are to be found. There, however,

an elsewhere, the process of emancipa-tion both through governmental means and through the operation of private philanthropy is going forward steadily. The Christmas holidays seem to have become rather a favorite time for carrying manumissions into effect, and the probability is that the close of the present year and the close of the next will witness great reductions in the registered list f Brazilian bondsmen. But it was an especially appy idea to make this gift of freedmen to the Pope on such an occasion. It recalls the old declaration of Scripture, "And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty."

We observe that when Mr. Evants hinted o his fellow Republicans on Saturday night that they ought to nominate for President this year some statesman as nearly as possible resembling ABBAHAM LINCOLN in greatness of character and disinterestedness of patriotism. he named no name.

Whom can Mr. Evants have had in mind?

Gov. Hill was for the most of his political ife a friend of Mr. Tilden—in close relations with him and a zealous student of his political heories. Were any one now to be ch best fitted to compile an honest, accurate, and comprehensive analysis of Mr. Tilden's political work, with the motives which actually moved him and the objects which he really had

n view, Gov. Hill would probably be the one. There certainly were in Gov. Hill's speech sev eral very auggestive quotations made from Mr. Pilden's utterances, which should not be lost on the President or on the aspiring kitchen bureau at the White House, which aims to exait Mr. Cleveland as the vital prerequisite of the party. Mr. Tilden refused a renomination. which he believed to mean a reflection, and he emphatically declined to believe that any one man, even if the one man were himself, was necessary to the progress of Democracy or the republic. We are glad that Gov. Hill has taken occasion to emphasize these points.

In reading this speech President Cleveland will have his attention drawn to these two important matters, which otherwise, we fear, would never be so forcibly impressed upon him, for Mr. Cleveland has never been an intimate acquaintance or even an apparent stu-dent of Mr. Tilden—not, indeed, so far as we are aware, having had the pleasure of a personal introduction to that political philosopher until after he had himself been in the Governor's chair for several months.

#### The Dynamite Air Gun.

While the possibilities of firing from ordinary ent experiments at Sandy Hock, a board of naval officera appointed by Secretary Whitney to examine and report upon the pneumatic dynamite gun to be used in the new cruiser, has given a very encouraging account

The first element they note in this novel device is its air at high pressures. So that they are able to very slightly increase or diminish the range of a shot, or even o exactly duplicate it.

Then, as to the amount of dynamite, it is certain that

the stipulated quantity of 200 pounds can be fired with perfect safety, and that the possibilities in this respec

Another very important matter is the cheapness with which the gun can be built as compared with ordinary weapons of an equal calibre. It can also be constructed with great rapidity, whereas a powder gun may require

As to range, it is thought that two miles can be countpefore taking further steps with this new device, the re sults of actual trials of the new cruiser should be

### What Constitutes a Ration.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.-An interesting order issued from Army Headquarters during the past week lays down this rule as to what a soldier's ration shall be: lays down this rule as to what a soldler's ration shall be:

By direction of the Secretary of War, paragraph
2,150 of the Regulatious is amended to read as follows:
2,150. A ration is the established daily allowance of
food for one person. For the United States Army It is
now composed as follows: Twelve ounces of pork or bacon or canned beef (fresh or corned), or one pound and
four ounces of fresh beef, or twenty-two ounces of sail
beef; eighteen ounces of soft bread or flour, or sixteen
ounces of hard bread, or one pound and four ounces of
corn meal. To every 100 rations, fifteen pounds of beans
or peak.

To every 100 rations, fifteen pounds of beans
or peak.

To every 100 rations of teat fifteen pounds ef
sugar; four quarts of vinegar; one pound and eight
ounces of admannine or star candles; four pounds of
soap; four pounds of sail; four conces of pepper; and
to troops in the field, when necessary, four pounds of
yeast powder to the 100 rations of flour.

When questions arise hereafter as to the sufficiency
and succulence of the ration, this will be the proper basis

and succulence of the ration, this will be the proper basis

### Why Don't the Crows Freeze !

to submit a question to Tun Sun, in the hope that some naturalist will explain a phenomenon in natural history that perplexes me. During the temporary luli in land speculations (in the sanguine language of agenta, "real estate will soon begin to move"), the chief feature of Sebraska, next to its blizzards and heroic school teachers, may be said to be its crows. Figuratively speaking, one might say "the woods are full of them." but this is not a wooded district, and the question I wash speaking, one might say "the woods are full of them." but this is not a wooded district, and the question I wish to ask is. Where do these myriads of birds find shelter from the intense cold that relentiessly stiffens man and bass during the winter storms that sweep over these has during the winter storms that sweep over these freeze bird, a black tiff in the white snow, in the track of the bilizard, like a mourning badge, but uncounted flocks of cawing crows still come with the day from the fract and sweep away at night in black columns as if Nebraska winters had no terrors for them.

These crew colonies are well organized, and evidently know what they are about. The wonder is that their instinct, which in the crow and raven borders close upen intelligence, does not send them further south during the cold season. With the regularity of the sun they come each morning across the river from Council hay come each morning across the river from Council hay come each morning across the river from Council has perfectly tame, and feed with the podisting. They are the street scavengers of the city, and as numerous as the children in the populous districts. They are the street scavengers of the city, and as numerous as the children in the populous districts. They gather like committees on public improvements in unoccupied district, and with their crow pantomine look as though they were staking out corner lots. In the late afternoon their preparation for returning to their night haunts is oridently no haphazard operation. Some winged sentine that evidently takes note of time sents down from his turret, and in a twinking all hes dissed man from his turret, and in a twinking all hes dissed man from the populous districts and dissed from the key.

On and Feb. 6. OMAHA, Feb. C.

### Is it Ever Right to Steal !

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It was stated in Thursday's Sux that the Congregationalist takes issue with Cardinal Manning and others who teach that a man may steal to save his life. "It says that many man has died rather than stoal to save his life, and has chosen death rightly and wisely. 'The dire alternative does not often occur, but when it does then doe means it wiscome death rather than dishonor.' It claims its westcome death rather than dishonor.' It claims that the stoad in the contrary has done more than almost that the sies to corrupt public morals.'

The later death of the contrary has done more than almost that the sies to corrupt public morals.

The later death of the form of the state of the state of the same than the same the same than the same same there is no law of Heaven, nor of nature, that forbids a starving man to exice on bread wherever he can find it, even though it should be the loaves of property. man has died rather than steal to save his life, and h

#### A Grewl from a London Ball-goer, From Vanity Pair.

Of all the pitiful pleasures I wot of none surpasses in its distressing details the present average Lon-don ball. A really first-class funeral, with a popular corpse in the leading part, is to my mind infinitely pref-erable. How often have I sadly contemplated the serrable. How orce nave; any contemplated the ser-ried row of chaperona, ranged in drowny clusters round the room on comfortless ill-padded benches; Poor things; few ever waste a passing thought over the dreariness of their nightly task. How many mortificadreariness of their nightly task. How many mortifica-tions disappointments, and anxieties lie hidden beneath those faded fineries and those glittering jeweis! Then, again, there is the inevitable awkward squad of solemn young men grouped around the doors, like so many wooden tailor's dumnies. Are they enjoying them-selves! Is the heatess herself really happy as she stands in the deadly draught at the top of the stairs machanically welcoming utter strangers with one hand, mechanically welcoming utter strangers with one hand, while with the other she grasps an intolerably weighty bouquet? As for the host no one even dreams of his

enjoying himself.

But the most distressing scene of all is enacted in the centre of the ballroom where a rough-and-tumble scrimmage is carried on over six square yards of floor. And this is sarcastically dignified with the name of dancing! Tail, melantholy locking, cadavarous young men pilos little dumpy damsels through this hazardous mase, and fat, florid dames courageously intrust themselves to the doubtful guidance of half-wanted archina. The deafening tones of the band render anything lits consecutive conversation impossible, and only strain the nerves to the very highest pitch of irritability. Leatly, there comes that indescribable stampede for the tears and the close of the parformance.

GREATER SAFRTY AT SEA.

he In ternational Marine Conference to be Reld at Washington Buring October. WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—The House Com mittee on Foreign Affairs has taken another step toward holding a conference of the maritime nations by reporting favorably Mr. Bel-mont's bill for that purpose. A duplicate of this measure is before the Senate, and there should be no delay in acting upon it, in order that the invitations may go out in season to the nations maintaining a marine. The bill proposes that the conference shall assemble in Washington on the 1st of October, or at such other time and place as the President may designate, and that the United States shall be represented by five delegates.

The objects sought by the conference are numerous and important. One of those indicated by the bill is to revise and amend the rule of the road at sea with the view of removing any doubts and discrepancies now existing, and also of making it most likely to insure freedom from the perils of collision. Another object is to improve the present international code of lag and night signals, and to adopt a uniform system of marine signals or other means of inlicating the direction in which vessels are moving, as well as their position, during dark nights or in fog, mist, falling snow, or thick weather. Several methods have been suggest ed for this purpose, and with the present progress of scientific devices for carrying unformation to a distance in spite of wind and weather there ought not to be much difficulty in settling upon one for universal adoption

Still another subject of discussion will be the methods of saving life and property from

Still another subject of discussion will be the methods of saving life and property from wrecked vessels. This will bring in the whole subject of life lines, life boats, rafts, and other contrivances known to the Life Saving Service, more particularly those which can be carried aboard ship. The difficulties encountered by Secretary Whitney in getting as absolutely satisfactory life boat are well remembered.

A specially important work for the conference will be that of fixing upon some system for reporting, marking, and removing dangerous wrecks or obstructions to navigation. It has become evident that the North Atlantic especially, should be subject to a sort of international policing for the destruction of floating hulks. An inspection of any one of the monthly charts issued by the Hydrographic Office will disclose the need of some such arrangement. Of late years it has been the custom of the Navy Department to send out a vessel to blow up or tow away dereliots which are near the coast and in the track of commercial travel. The number of these perils of the sea would be almost incredible, were they not carefully charted, and their drift or position noted on the chart according to the latest observations of mariners. Commodore Walker, Chief of the Bureau of Navigation, suggested in his last annual report that a small vessel could find employment throughout the year in the destruction of these abandoned wrecks, and certainly no better use for a Government vessel could be suggested. But far beyond domestic waters, often in mid-ocean, and repeatedly floating back and forth across the steam lanes to Europe, these wrecks are to be found. Commercial vessels, hurrying en their errands, cannot, of course, be expected to stop to blow up these hulks. The danger of leaving them is none the less apparent, since a vessel striking at full speed one of these waterlogged craft might almost as well strike a rock. They give none of the alarm to the ear which a dangerous reef supplies as the breakers roar over it, nor do they yi

Other purposes suggested for the conference in section 2 of the bill are these:

tions for the prevention of collisions and other disasters.

Perhaps under this last head may come the examination of the new contrivances for quickly stopping vessels when under full headway; and no doubt some attention will be given to the use of cell in calming rough seas. There can be no question of the great value of the work which such an international conference might do, and since the call for it comes from the Maritime Exchanges, Boards of Trade, and similar organizations throughout the country. Congress should act promptly upon the measure now before it.

### ALBANT GOSSIP.

Mr. T. D. Sullivan is becoming the champion orthog rapher of the Assembly. On the sides of the Assembly chamber there are two large calendars with the month. day, and week on them. The calendare spell it "Febru-aray." and they have been spelling it that way all this month. None of the rural members objected to this, but Mr. Sullivan thought he would show them how much wiser the representative of Paradise Park is than the young men from Oswego and Franklin counties. The bad spelling pained him, and after waiting over a week he offered a resolution: "Resolved That the Superin-tendent of Public Suidings is hereby directed to secure such calendars for the use of this body as shall contain that the last 'a' in the name of the month on the present calendar be stricken out." Mr. Sullivan had to make a speech before the eyes of the countrymen were ope The resolution was finally passed, but there has bee sembly still puts two a's in February.

Mr. Sullivan's notions are strict in other things than spelling. Though he does not drink or smoke himself, he is opposed to all high license or temperance legisla-tion, as he believes it is against the principles of democ racy to interfere with individual habits. He does no see how any Democrat can favor sumptuary legislation.
When a Republican Assemblyman sent to the Clerk's deak a petition in favor of the Croeby High License bill, and said: "This is signed by several Democratic office holders." Mr. Sullivan looked up, and in pained and severe tones replied: "You call them Democrats do you! They ought to be dead."

Senator Michael Cotter Murphy and Mr. Daniel Ebeneser Finn of the Assembly, who are constantly tagging at the British lion's tall by resolution and otherwise, wear the new style of English cloth hats. They are the same shape as pot hats, only they are of cloth and flexi-ble. They can be packed in a value without injury. Mr. Jonathan C. Latimer of Tioga county, where the

residence of former Quarantine Commissioner Plats isn't, has a pretty daughter about twelve years old who cheers up the sessions of the Assembly by playing ab her father's desk. She wears a bright red dress, and her long vellow hair hangs over it in curis. All the As-semblymen like her, and it is pleasanter in the rear corner of the Republican side whenever she makes a

There are more manufacturers and business men in each succeeding Assembly. The proportion of lawyers in the Senate keeps up, but not a quarter of the As semblymen are lawyers, the great part of the decrease being in New Yerk and Brooklyn. which have hardly any Democratic lawyers in the Assembly this year. Of the 128 Assemblymen there are 31 lawyers, or 15 fewer lawyers than business men. The farmers are 7 fewer the lawyers. There are 4 doctors, and a dozen occupa-tions have one or two representatives each.

According to statistics prepared with care by the man who does the pegisiative calculating every year, the average age of the Assemblymen is a little over 45, and the average weight is probably over 150, taking each man with his winter clothes on. The patriarch of the Assembly in years is John Cashow of Queens who was born in 1819. The infant member is Timothy D. Suliivan of Paradise Park, who is 24 years old. New ton Martin Curtis, frequently called Nebeniah Curtis, of St. Lawrence county, is six feet six, and the biggest man physically in the Assembly. The statistician says that John B. Shea of New York is the shortest man, with 5 feet 4 inches, but that is doubtful, as Danforth E. Ainsworth of Oswego and Austin Yates of Schenectady

Senator Jacob Worth of Brooklyn wears purple trouser and a silk tie to match.

Senator Edward F. Reilly has organised several sleighing parties this winter. It is noticed that he does not take out his fellow Senators but some Albany young ladies, and that one young lady has been in the party Mr. Louis P. Rannow of New York is baid in a peculiar

thatchwork remaining until time and thought waft that ways. The first half of his head is as destitute of hair as is his nose. Suddenly, where one would expect the baldness to continue, is stops and the hair begins. From that on it is all right. Mr. Rannow takes pride in his

### Congressman Cumminge's Letters to The Sun.

The Hon. Amos J. Cummings, member of lougress from this city, is doing his whole duty as a Representative through his extremely interseting letters to Tax Sux, in which he shows the inside workings of the House from the standpoint of a member's deal. This is the sort of information which the people dealer, and when it comes from a clear-headed able man who wields a trenchant pen, it is doubly valuable. Mr. Cummings is the right man in the right place, and he has a still brighter future before him. POLITICS IN MAINE.

of Manuibal Mamila a Ropubl

BANGOR, Feb. 12 .- The first bubblings of the Republican political pot in this State are eginning to make themselves audible, and it will not be long now before the pot boils over into caucuses and conventions. The political year promises to be a merry one in Maine from beginning to end, and in all contests, from municipal elections to the Presidential fight The Republican newspapers are already picking out candidates for Governor, and the man nest mentioned up to this time is the Hon. oftenest mentioned up to this time is the Hon.
E. C. Burleigh of Augusta, who has long been
State Treasurer; but the friends of Col. A. C.
Hamlin of Bangor, a son of the ex-Vice-President. a Grand Army man, and a gentleman of
talent and culture, are urging his name for
recognition in the Convention. It is about time
that the candidate was selected from the eastern part of the State. The great majority of
our Governors, since Maine became a State,
have come from the southwestern counties.
Only three times has a Bangor man been elected to the Gubernatorial chair, and, although
this State has been doing business since 1820,
never has a Governor come from east of the
Penobscot.

A Banublican club was started some weeks

never has a Governor come from east of the Penobasot.

A Republican club was started some weeks ago here in Bangor, but it evidently didn't get much of a start, for little or nothing is heard of it. However, this is the Blainest town of the Blaine State, and when it gets warm enough to parade we shall hear plenty of "whooping her up," such as only the Plumed Knight can command in this neighborhood. The Republicans here are of a lively and radical sort. They swear by Blaine, were bitterly disappointed when he was defeated by a narrow margin in 1884, but fully believe that he'll sit in the White House yet.

### COUGHS AND CROLERA CURED.

The City Paraleles Medicine for These Tw. Allments to All who Ask for It. Nobody that knows the ropes need ever suffer from colds or cholers in this city if he can get or send to the headquarters of the Board of Charities and Correction, at the corner of Third avenue and Eleventh street. Anybody can get there a sovereign remedy against it. No civil service examination need be passed. the trouble to ask for cough or cholera medi-

cine must need it.

Buperintendent Blake is the dispensing doctor, and his drug shop is all in two little drawers in his deek. One contains small bottles of a brownish, aromatic tasting liquid, which he hands out without question to every one who says: "Please, it. some cough medicine." The other drawer is filled with still smaller bottles of another dark mixture that smells so pleasantly that the Superintendent drops a bottle on the floor for a deodorizer whenever the tenment house oder brought into the place by the throng that crowds it daily becomes unusually strong.

the throng that crowds it daily becomes unusually strong.

"Both mixtures," he says, "are prepared by our chemists after a formula of their own, and they are certainly very efficient remedies. There is a great demand now for the cough medicine, and it saves many a poor person from having to go to the hospital. The cholera medicias no one wants now, but hundreds of them apply for it in summer. The cough and cholera mixtures are the only ones that the city gives away free here. You see, we can't run a regular dispensary, but these meet the greatest need of the poor so far as medicine is concerned.

WHAT GOY, HILL SAYS.

#### He Pellewed Mr. Cleveland's Custom With Respect to the Payment of Furniture Bills. From the Evening Sun of Saturday.

There is practically nothing the matter Additional furniture was wanted, and, in the same man ner as it would be procured for the Capitol or any other public building, it was paid for out of the fund for the maintenance of public buildings. As the Governor is the only trustee of public buildings here all the year, Superntendent Andrews attends to such matters and I approve the bills. That was Gov. Cleveland's custom, an

fullest investigation. My endeavor has been to have a convenient and suitable mansion for all time, and in harmony with the greatest State in the Union. Every thing that has been ordered and charged to the fund necessary to the requirements, and dignity of the State The fund is for the very purpose of keeping in repair or refurnishing the public buildings, of which the Capitol is one. This is evident when it is known that all new do. partments created are furnished from this fund. In fact, there is no other way to do it. I do not say this to defend myself, but to place Superintendent Andrews and the Comptroller in a proper light."

#### Peretra Notes of Real Interest The Bishop of Liverpool attributes the deplorable in-crease of drunkenness among Englishwomen to "gro-

that international cricket has been overdone. They will withdraw patronage from "any Australian team visit-ing England for four years," and from "any knglish team visiting the colonies for three years." They favored

aly balls to an over. The Parisians have revolted against the introduction of horses on the lyric stage. Twelve equines appear at once in the new opera of "La Dame de Monsereau," and the audiences have kicked. The discussion upon one wrote a play which the manager refused because one scene included "a hansom cab drawn by a live horse," and the author wouldn't give it up.

The four girders of the Eiffel tower are in place, an sked for her forgiveness, and she has acquiesced.

Pere Hyacinth said lately that if the Church of Rome would give up infallibility, allow priests to marry, and render confession voluntary, it would raily to its side "all the dissenters and all the lukewarm." A young French actress Mile. Schaefer, a graduat of the Paris Conservatoire, was requested to appear in

she refused. She was sued, and won the suit and enceforth be required to don nothing simple otticoata. Ollivier, Napoleon's Prime Minister when the France-Prussian war of 1670 began, is writing a histor.

of its causes.

Recent returns give the population of the Russian em-pire as 103,787,235. Ruropean Russia has 81,725,185; the Vistula region, 7,960,304; Finland, 2,176,421; the Caucasus, 7,284,547; Siberia, 4,313,680; and Central Asia Canon Knox Little has begun an attack against mous

taches on clergymen of the Church of England, and the

gentlemen assailed reply with ne evidence at all of a ntention to shave.

At the sale of a famous Scotch cellar, ports of 1834 and 1847 fetched 110s. per dosen; sherry, thirty years in bot tie, 100s.; Lafitte of 1858, 125s.; Steinberg of 1862, 150s

eme "tappit hena" of 1864 Lafitte fetched 75s. e Paul du Chaillu has been seriously ill in London. The cost to date of publishing the reports of the Che lenger, of which only three volumes have been issued, has exceeded \$1,000,000. Rubinstein has been made a Councillor of Russia and

an Excellency.

M. Heuri Fouquier of the Figure mourns the decline
of "lagatis/prancaise." Folitics and trade have killed it.
Weber's posthymeus work, "The Three Pintos," has
been produced in Dreaden with great success.
A thousand women recently met in the Public Hall at
Dudley to discuss the affairs of the "Needlework Guild."
The Counters of Dudley presided. The report shows the

The Countess of Dudley presided The report shows that in three counties, of which Birmingham is the centre It is now forty-seven days since the Cunard steamer

Demerars left Liverpool for Genoa, and nothing has been heard of her. She carried forty-one persons. A "solemn office for the repose of the soul of Prince Charles Edward Stuart" was celebrated in London on the night of Jan. 30, despite the veto of Cardinal Manning. Dr. Lee exhorted people to think kindly of the house of Stuart, and giorified the Pretender. At the ball given on Jan. 28 at the Hotel de Ville by the Corporation of Paris there were 12,000 guesta. Pres-

ident Carnot's wife was dressed in red volvet.

The anti-foreign crass in France grows - The Minister of Agriculture has directed his superdinates to employ tone but Frenchmen.

The war fever has reached China. Two million tacks

A new thirty-eight-ton gun recently burst at Woolwich Mr. Jamison of Dublin, the owner of the cutter Irex, has concluded not to build an Irish boat to compete for the America's cup at his own expense, but he says he is

rilling to join a syndicate for that purpose leight of hand." The teachers say that it atimulates certion in other studies.

#### First-rate and a Haif. From the Utica Observer.

The six-page issues of THE SUN often bring o mind the genial old auctionesr, Benjamin F. Brooks. Is was burly and hearty, with ever a pleasant greeting. To an inquiry regarding his health, his answer almost invariably was: "First-rate and a half." The four-page flux is a great first-rate newspaper. The six page flux i "first-rate and a half."

TwoiGood Things to Bo. From the Albany Journal.

Gov. Hill has made two important speed in Brooklyn. In the first he said, "I am a Democr In the second last evening, he said substantially, and accordings."

INTERESTING GOSSIP OF THE DAY Not long ago Mme. Modjeska, while seated Not long ago Mme. Modjeska, while seated in he flewer-strewn parlor with a few friends, was led to this up her favorits theme, the plays of Shakespara. On, at least, of her listeners was surprised at her familiarly with the works of the Bard of Avon and her orises knowledge of them. She apoke of the magnitude usa fascination of his plots, the richness and range of the language, the variety and peculiarities of his characters and grew rapturous over his genius. It was delighted to an admirer of the immortal dramatist to laten to the appreciative discourse of the famous actress about his plays. She began their study when living upon her ranch in California, many years ago.

In three adjacent tensmonts of an external stream.

In three adjacent tenements of an up-town block in Second avenue, there were three incidents yesterday afternoon: A funeral, a wedding, and a christening.

It appears that Citizen George Francis Train dose not fit appears much better up in New Brunswick than he found them here in his native land. He sends us ampplement of the Sussex (N. B.) Record in which he plement of the Sussex (N. B.) Record in which he "sounds the alarm." and predicts inundation ship wreck, earthquake, and bankruptcy for the British pre-liness to which he has fled as a fugitive from sush alarming visitations in the United States. In view of alarming visitations in the United States. In view of the impending dangers in New Brunswick, we neith Citizen Train that in a few weeks the apringuise will shed its indusences over Madison square; the trees will be clothed in living green; the birds will sing; the play ful children will search the whole square for the above itizen who used to be their friend.

citizen who used to be their friend.

An architect spoke: "I see they are advertising for designs for the projected Episcopal Cathedral in this city and of course the chances are against any worthy design. Why don't they save themselves the troubia and model it after the supreme piece of ecclesizated architecture. St. Feter's, in Rome? They certainly cannot find a designer equal to Michael Angelo. Just think of such a cathedral, dome and all, in this New World materials and the spacious site that has been chosen along the Hudsen! They can raise plenty of money among the Wealthy Episcopalians to carry out such a preject in honer of the Divinity." The architect was remisded that St. Peter's is more suitable for the grand ceremonies of Cathedicism than for Protestant preaching.

John Bigslow, who recently celebrated his 70th best John Bigelow, who recently celebrated his 70th birth

day, and who is content with the name he has won as author, editor, and diplomatist, may be seen walking any day with a light step and placid face along the outh side of Gramercy square, upon which he has his winter dwelling. It is three years over half a century since he graduated at Union College. The grand and ornate mansion on Gramercy square that was the residence of the late Mr. Tilden stands closed, with all the curtains drawn, as it has stood since

If the reader is a politician he may enter this prophecy in his note, book: There will be no free trade Presiden tial candidate of any party nominated on a free trade platform for the campaign that ends next November.

We hear from Washington that Denis Kearney, who after battering the Chinese through the press, is trying to secure legislation that will exclude them totally from the country, has become very hopeful of success since the Chinese representative in Washington has as-nounced himself in favor of the exclusion that Mr. Kearney desires. Kearney is a pertinacious man in pur-

"I am not surprised to hear that Mr. Henry George has come out for the renomination of Grover Cleveland and the obliteration of the short-lived Land party." These were the words of a crusader at the headquar-ters of D. A. 49, who added: "The fact is that George has always been a Democrat, though he boilted when put up for Mayor by the Labor party, which party he knocked to pieces after his defeat as its candidate. In Califor nia he was a Democratio officeholder and the editor of several Democratio papers which came to grief. He was abraed at the time of the last Presidential campaign, but in the previous campaign, when living in New York, he was employed as a stump speaker for Hancock by the Chairman of the National Democratic Committee. Now hat he has joined the advocates of a second term for Mr. Cleveland, our whoopers up are getting tired. I my-self have been marching under Dr. McGlynn's Cross of the New Crusade, but I cannot any longer follow the sig-

rag tracks of the makeshift prophet."

An Alderman sat in the City Hall. "This is not the first time," he said, "that we ever had a reforming Mayor in New York who made a leud noise. You den't remember the days of Pernando Wood, and how he started out to reform everything from top to bottom, and what came of it all? But from his time down to that of ex-Mayor Grace and his busy successor, we have every now and then had promises of great things from reform Mayors. If you'll measure up their record and tell me how long it is, 'l'it ell you that I wish better things for Mayor Hewitt. who is more like a 'steam engine is ropsers ' than Daniel Webster ever was."

Harry Hamlin, son of the owner of Mambrine Kins and a personal friend of Grover Cleveland, sailed for Europe on the Aurania Saturday with his wife, child nteresting and it is said, unusual letter of introduc-ion. It was addressed to "all United States Minister it throughout the world," and was signed "T. F.
" It stated that the Secretary of State was intructed by the President of the United States to in troduce Mr. Hamiln to this country's representatives abroad. Mr. Hamiln's party expect to arrive in Lon ion in time for the opening of the panorama of Niag-

ara Palls. Hamlin, senior, owned the big store burned

own in Buffalo last week. Philadelphians have been fairly swarming to New fork since Albert got such a lead on the record in sixday matches. They claim Albert as a fellow citizen, but the fact is that he comes from Atlantic City, where a ducted the Post Office. Atlantic City isn't a suburb of Philadelphia by any means, although Philadelphians so claim it. Just at this time of year Atlantic City is full of New Yorkers. Arthur Chambers and his wife, Charles Edgar, and Pat H. Hall were one group of Quakercitisens who called to pay their respects to the Hon. Billy dwards at the Hoffman.

Commodore Alfred Van Santyoord and his family are going South week after next. They will stay some time in Florida. The Commodore is Vice-President of the Ancoln National Bank and owner of the Albany Day Seat line. He is always on duty looking after the business of the river steamers from their start to the close of navigation, and takes his recreation and rest in the

The Nineteenth Century Club, though formally organ ized and so progressive as to attract considerable atten-tion from literary and fashionable people, has neverbal full set of rules. Its constitution and by-laws have on almost altogether of an informal and unwritten been aimost aitogether of an informal and unwritten kind, and when new occasion has demanded new rules the custom has been set by vote or by chance. Freez-dent has been otherwise followed. A collation of all the club's laws is now being finished and will soon be issued

Dr. J. Ryland Kendrick, President of Vassar College before the recent accession of Dr. James Monroe Tay-lor, was in the city this last week in company with Mrs Kendrick, for the benefit of whose health both have gone South. Dr. Kendrick is a brother of the Greek lar of that name, and previous to going to Vassar it 1885 was paster of a Baptist church in this city. He is still a trustee of the college and one of its active arenta

Prof. Maria Mitchell had in the Vassar Observatory until last June an able dasistant in Miss Magy W. Whit-ney of '68, one of the earliest Vassar classes. Since September she has lectured at schools in and near Boston on the stars. The resignation of Miss Mitchell and her illness having made the chair of astronomy va-cant, the Board of Trustees, through their executive committee, on Priday elected Miss Whitney Professor, to serve until June next. She has accepted. It is likely that at commencement. Miss Mitchell's resignation will take full effect; that she will be retired as Professor Emerits, and that then Miss Whitney will be chosen her successor. She has proved an able teacher and a good investigator. After leaving Vassar she studied mathe matica at Zurich.

A large number of the Vassar alumns at the annua reunion in the Brunswick a few days ago were pointed out as being unmarried, and it was remarked that most Vastar women marry late rather than early. This i due, the college observers say, to the interest in teach-ing or post graduate study, evinced by so many of each class, which keeps them free for several years after graduation. And then there are others who wall because it is their own sweet will to do so. The result isand statistics have shown this—that college-bred wemsa make unusually few unhappy marriages.

At 2 P. M. every day the inmates of the Tombs take their exercise by waiking for haif an hour or an hour around the platforms of the various tiers of cells. The footpath is narrow, and they all have to go in one direclion on each tier. All last week the men as they walted Joked about their having a show which would rival that in Madison square darden. Perhaps twenty times around the tier would make a mile and as the men transped their exercise hour away they counted of their laps just the same as if trotting around for a purse.

Mrs. Howard Coit, now a wealthy resident in the Palace Hotel, San Francisco, and who, as Lifty Hitch-cock, the young and protty daughter of Dr. Hitch-cock. a popular United States Army surgeon, used to accoun pany "the boys" to the fires in San Francisco away back in the 50s, has been elected an honorary member of the recently organized Veteran Firemen's Association of that city. Gustave Amberg of the Thalia Theatre sat in his little

den level with the elevated tracks looking at two im-portant things on his deck. One was a letter to some German bankers regarding the disposition of \$0.500 which Herr Possart the great German actor, has cleared here in three weeks, and the other was a carte de visite o in Gertrude Gelera, who is to sail from Germany sart. The picture would have interested any one but the manager more than the letter, for it was a portrait of a lovely a feminine face as one will see in a long walk.